

opportunities for thousands of students from around the globe in order to promote the development of scientific and technological leaders.

Her global approach makes it no surprise that she was honored by the Bulgarian Government and the Sts. Cyril and Methodius Foundation. As a co-chair of the Bulgarian Caucus, I applaud Joann's efforts in creating strong business relationships between the U.S. and Bulgaria. I know that she is just as likely to be honored by any number of our Nation's partners for her work in developing partnerships around the world.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and all of my colleagues to rise and honor Joann DiGennaro for her dedicated spirit and the important work she continues to perform today as president of the Center for Excellence in Education.

#### FARM, NUTRITION AND BIOENERGY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 27, 2007*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2419) to provide for the continuation of agricultural programs through fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes:

Ms. LEE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of the Rangel Amendment and thank the gentlemen for offering such a forward-thinking measure.

This amendment will remove the banking restrictions that require prepayment for agricultural goods, that keep Cuban families from purchasing food from American family farmers. And frankly it's past time.

It's past time to leave outdated cold war era thinking on United States-Cuban relations out where they belong—in the cold.

It's past time to reach out to the Cuban people and allow them to engage our democratic free markets.

It's past time to restore the rights of the American family farmer's access to upwards of \$300 million dollars in sales to the Cuban market.

It makes no sense to me to allow agricultural exports into Cuba on one hand and then turn around and set up bureaucratic banking restrictions that severely limit those very exports on the other.

I commend Chairman RANGEL for his leadership on this issue and I hope to work with him to bring some common sense to Cuba policy.

#### HONORING WALNUT HILL PRES- BYTERIAN CHURCH ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. DAVID DAVIS**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 30, 2007*

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to dedication of the congregation of Walnut Hill Presbyterian Church on the occasion of the celebration of their 75th Anniversary.

In the First District of Tennessee, there is a long tradition of worship that has brought a great sense of heritage and values to our community.

In 1932 a dedicated group of believers sacrificed to start a church in the area between Blountville and Bristol, TN. During this time they have been a shining light on a hill for all in the Walnut Hill community.

Madam Speaker, I ask that the House join me in honoring the congregation of Walnut Hill Presbyterian Church for their tireless efforts through the past 75 years in sharing the gospel and encouraging people to pursue better lives.

#### COMMEMORATING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF GAY BRASHER

**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 30, 2007*

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Gay Brasher, an extraordinary person who has dedicated her career and life to educating our youth in public speaking through speech and debate. Her excellence in teaching is reflected in the numerous accolades she has received for developing one of the most successful and renowned speech and debate programs in the nation.

Ms. Gay Brasher was raised in Lafayette, Louisiana. When she was young, she was certain she wanted to eventually coach public speaking and debate. Gay went on to the University of Southwestern Louisiana, now the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, where she successfully debated in multiple state tournaments. After obtaining her Bachelor's and Master's Degrees from the university, she stayed in the Louisiana area to begin her teaching career.

At the beginning of her career, Gay loudly voiced her belief in the importance of public speaking courses. She served on the Louisiana State Committee for textbook adoption, focusing on the need for speech education. At her first teaching assignment, she was named the Louisiana Speech Coach of the Year, and shortly after, she moved to the San Francisco Bay Area to continue her teaching.

In the Silicon Valley, Gay bolstered San Jose High School's award-winning speech and debate program. Gay was a great influence on the community and was frequently recognized for her commitment to improving high school debate programs. In March of 1996, she was honored by the Tech Museum of Innovation as an Inspirational Teacher, and in 1999, she was awarded the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Good Neighbor Award for her contributions and voluntary service to the community. At one point in her career, she coached speech and debate at all six San Jose High Schools at the same time. She eventually settled at Leland High School, where she developed one of the best speech and debate programs in the nation.

The Leland team consistently wins the sweepstakes award at several league and invitational tournaments; dozens of individual team members qualify yearly for the state and national championship tournament. Gay has now mentored several California State Champions, two Catholic Forensic League National

Champions, and one National Forensic League National Champion. In 2007, Leland High School was chosen as one of only three schools from the hundreds of participants to be honored with the Excellence in Speech and Debate Award.

Aside from coaching the Leland High School Speech and Debate Team, Gay also provides learning opportunities for other members of the Leland community. She hosts an annual speech tournament for English as a Second Language Students to help with their speaking skills. Gay also teaches public speaking at Burnett Junior High School and donates her earnings to the Leland Speech and Debate Program. In addition, she was the Area Chairperson for the California High School Speech Association (CHSSA) and was elected to the CHSSA Hall of Fame.

Gay has been widely recognized by the community for her excellence. Besides being named as the Teacher of the Year for Leland High School in 1998, Gay was also chosen as the San Jose Unified School District's Teacher of the Year. In 2001, the National Forensics League (NFL) named Gay as the Speech Coach of the Year, and in 2006 she was inducted into the NFL Hall of Fame. Now in 2007, Gay received her Fifth Diamond from the NFL and continues to inspire the speech and debate community.

The impact that Gay has made on her students is immeasurable. Gay regularly receives letters from former students and universities noting her influence and praising her support. Her passion for speech is inspiring to educators and students alike as we are reminded of the enormous importance of public speaking programs in our educational system. Her guidance has been vital in the lives of so many as she shaped not only an immensely successful speech and debate program but also the students within it.

I offer my congratulations to Gay Brasher on her distinguished career as the coach of the Leland High School Speech and Debate Program. She has touched a generation of students, and her legacy will live on for many years to come.

#### HONORING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF ADA MANUEL

**HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 30, 2007*

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor and congratulate Ada Manuel who will be celebrating her 90th birthday at the J. Charles Griswell Senior Citizens Center in Georgia.

She was born on August 10, 1917 to Frank and Hettie Drake Spence. Ada was married to the late Booker T. Manuel with whom she had two daughters Juanita Manuel Rhodes Mond and Elaine Manuel Symonette. She is the grandmother of Reginald E. Symonette, Dr. Yulanda Rhodes, Edward R. Rhodes and Wanda D. Rhodes Price; and the great grandmother of Chandler Price, Chad Price, Chelsea Price, Chania Price, Aaron Rhodes and Xenia Rhodes who sadly preceded her great grandmother in death.

After graduating from Mitchell County Elementary High School, she felt the need for

spiritual growth so she became a member of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of the late Reverend J. I. Ross. Eager to serve, she became a doorkeeper at the Church. She also served as an assistant chief to the usher board. She later formed the now Jordan Grove Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of the late Reverend Charlie E. Smith.

Ada also enjoys singing and praying; especially praying because she will pray for anyone. During her forty years at Jordan Grove Missionary Baptist Church, she was a member of the Willing Workers where she served as president for one term and then vice-president. As also a member of the Prayer Band, she worked on several committees including Women's Days.

Currently she is a member of the First Baptist Church of Brownsville. She is an exemplary figure for both the young and the old of her parish.

Madam Speaker, and colleagues, I ask that you join me in honoring Ada Manuel today. I hope we all have the good fortune to live such a full life as she has; she is truly a great lady. Her family and friends must be very proud, and I thank her for continuing to serve the community.

#### COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 26, 2007*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3093) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I commend the House and the Appropriations Committee for passing the FY 2008 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill last week.

Back in January, I signed a bi-partisan letter along with 39 of my colleagues calling for an increase in NASA's budget. The President requested \$17.3 billion, an increase of over \$1 billion from FY 2007 enacted levels. Subsequently, 23 CEOs of our country's top aerospace companies wrote Congress calling for a top-line increase in NASA's budget.

I'm happy to report that Appropriations Committee not only listened but acted. This bill contains over \$17.6 billion for our space program, \$1.3 billion above current levels and \$313 million on top of the President's request. The bill moves ahead with construction of our next generation human space vehicle, while ensuring that our current vehicle, the Space Shuttle, is fully funded so that it can continue to fly safely, complete construction of the International Space Station (ISS), and service the Hubble Space Telescope. It also restores funding for important missions in space science and aeronautics.

Some of my colleagues who don't have an active space constituency in their district might ask why should we spend this amount of

money on NASA? Quite simply, NASA programs are about investing in our country's future—our future from a scientific standpoint given all the agency does to promote and to inspire young people to study science, math and engineering; our future economically given the agency's development and support for new industries, just think of how many folks are watching this debate as a result of space-based communications; and lastly, our future from a national security standpoint.

Let me go into that last point in more detail. My colleagues are well aware of China's irresponsible and provocative anti-satellite weapons test. Debris from that test is now floating in orbit and presents a real threat to our space-based assets. But my colleagues may be less aware of China's plans for manned space exploration. China has already flown humans in orbit and has stated plans to build a space craft to land people on the Moon. Thirty years ago we were in a space race with the Russians. Now, our main competitor is the Chinese. Frankly, I do not want to see the American flag on the Moon supplanted by the Chinese flag. That remains a real possibility if we do not properly fund NASA. This bill contains the full request for development of the next generation U.S. human space flight vehicle to get us back to the Moon and beyond.

Lastly, I would like to point out one area in the bill where we could make some improvements once we get into Conference with the Senate. The ISS faces \$20 million in reductions from the President's request in reserve funding and crew and cargo services. Given that we are entering into the most critical phase of construction, I believe it is vital that we fully fund the ISS. So I hope the Committee will be able to restore these funds.

I thank my colleagues for supporting this important legislation.

#### SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, July 31, 2007 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

#### MEETINGS SCHEDULED

AUGUST 1

9:30 a.m.

Foreign Relations  
African Affairs Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the United States Africa Command, focusing on a new strategic relationship with Africa.

SD-419

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 1677, to amend the Exchange Rates and International Economic Coordination Act of 1988, and original bills entitled, "Housing Assistance Authorization Act", "Private Student Loan Transparency and Improvement Act", and "Commission on Natural Catastrophe Risk Management and Insurance Act".

SD-538

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold an oversight hearing to examine recent advances in clean coal technology, focusing on the prospects for deploying these technologies at a commercial scale in the near future.

SD-366

10 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider S. 579, to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to make grants for the development and operation of research centers regarding environmental factors that may be related to the etiology of breast cancer. S. 625, to protect the public health by providing the Food and Drug Administration with certain authority to regulate tobacco products, and S. 1858, to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish grant programs to provide for education and outreach on newborn screening and coordinated followup care once newborn screening has been conducted, to reauthorize programs under part A of title XI of such Act.

Room to be announced

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 680, to ensure proper oversight and accountability in Federal contracting, H.R. 1254, to amend title 44, United States Code, to require information on contributors to Presidential library fundraising organizations, S. 1000, to enhance the Federal Telework Program, S. 1446, to amend the National Capital Transportation Act of 1969 to authorize additional Federal contributions for maintaining and improving the transit system of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, S. 547, to establish a Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security for Management, S. 1245, to reform mutual aid agreements for the National Capitol Region, S. 597, to extend the special postage stamp for breast cancer research for 2 years, H.R. 2570, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 301 Boardwalk Drive in Fort Collins, Colorado, as the "Dr. Karl E. Carson Post Office Building", S. 1732, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 301 Boardwalk Drive in Fort Collins, Colorado, as the "Dr. Karl E. Carson Post Office Building", S. 1772, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 127 South Elm Street in Gardner, Kansas, as the "Private First Class Shane R. Austin Post Office", S. 1781, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 118 Minner Avenue in Bakersfield, California, as the "Buck Owens Post Office", H.R. 2127, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 408 West 6th Street in Chelsea, Oklahoma, as the "Clem Rogers McSpadden Post Office Building", H.R. 2563, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at